



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

**SAFETY ALERT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



MAY 02 2006

**MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION**

**SUBJECT: Army Motorcycle Fatalities 15-29 Apr 06 -- Safety Alert 06-02**

1. The Army has experienced five fatalities in two weeks due to motorcycle accidents. All the accidents involved sports motorcycles. Four drivers had not attended a rider safety course. Three of the five drivers were not licensed. Alcohol was involved in three accidents and speed was involved in three accidents. Two Soldiers were on R&R and Medical Hold. Also, three of the motorcycles used were not owned by the Soldiers involved.

**2. What were the mistakes?**

- a. Not wearing an approved DOT helmet.
- b. Driving too fast and driving under the influence.
- c. Soldiers were not licensed and had not attended the motorcycle rider safety course.
- d. Soldiers riding motorcycles with which they were unfamiliar.

**3. Lessons Learned:**

- a. Failure to wear DOT approved helmets and personal protective equipment will most likely result in death if involved in an accident.
- b. The motorcycle rider's safety course and possession of a proper license give Soldiers the basic knowledge for operating a motorcycle safely. Failure to have either of these is justification for line of duty "NO".
- c. Motorcyclists should be vigilant in driving defensively. Slow down; anticipate what's ahead; and look for escape routes in case of sudden trouble.
- d. Drinking impairs the reflexes. The consequences are magnified when involved in a motorcycle accident.
- e. Do not get on a motorcycle unless to have the proper training and experience to safely operate it!

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN  
BOARDS!**

MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General (P), USA  
Commanding

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